

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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PRS-01 SCS-02 SCA-01 AID-05 /067 W

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R 010601Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2359

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP SO US

SUBJECT: SIAD VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: SIAD'S WASHINGTON VISIT WAS TO REASSURE US ABOUT HIS POLICIES AND TO SEEK REASSURANCES IN TURN. VISIT WAS REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL FROM THIS VIEWPOINT. THIS, WE FEEL, IS IN US INTEREST, BUT WE DO NOT RPT NOT EXPECT IT WILL BRING CHANGES IN SOMALIA'S BASIC POLICIES OR EVEN ITS BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH US. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON, SIAD'S PUBLIC COMMENTS, AND HIS PRIVATE REMARKS TO DIPLOMATS HERE INDICATE THAT SIAD WAS IMPRESSED BY MUCH OF WHAT HE SAW IN US AND PLEASED BY RECEPTION ACCORDED HIM THERE. HE HAS SPOKEN IN MODERATELY FAVORABLE TERMS ABOUT HIS WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS AND REFERRED TO "NEW CHAPTER" IN US-SOMALI RELATIONS. HOWEVER, AMERICAN CITIZEN DAVID LIGHT IS STILL BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO, INTEREST PAYMENT ON US AID LOAN IS BEING

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"POSTPONED" IN EFFORT EXTRACT MORE MONEY FROM US, SIAD DID NOT

FIND TIME TO BRIEF AMBASSADOR ON US TRIP BEFORE DEPARTING FOR RABAT SUMMIT, ETC. SIAD CONTINUES TO SPEAK VIOLENTLY ABOUT THOSE "CRIMINALS" WHO MAINTAIN THERE IS A SOVIET BASE IN BERBERA, MAKING CLEAR HE FEELS PRESIDENT FORD WAS "MISINFORMED" ON ISSUE.

3. SIAD'S COMMENTS DURING VISIT AND AFTERWARDS SUGGEST THAT, IN ADDITION TO SHOWING SOMALIA COULD BE FRIENDS OF BOTH SUPER-POWERS, HE WAS BASICALLY HOPING TO REASSURE US ABOUT SOMALIA'S SOVIET TIES AND ITS INTENTIONS IN HORN AND TO SEEK REASSURANCE ABOUT US ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS REGIME. HE MAY HAVE FELT PARTICULAR NEED FOR THIS IN LIGHT OF US STATEMENTS ON SOVIET BASE IN SOMALIA, ACCELERATED US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA, AND SOMALI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY. SIAD'S SPLENETIC REMARKS RE BASES AFTER HIS RETURN SUGGEST THAT HE IS STILL NOT COMPLETELY AT EASE ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH HE MAY FEAR COULD PROVOKE GREATER US HOSTILITY TOWARD HIS REGIME. HOWEVER, WE THINK SIAD CAME AWAY FROM US SOMEWHAT REASSURED AND FELT HE HAD REASSURED US TO SOME DEGREE AS WELL.

4. WE BELIEVE, AS NOTED MOGADISCIO 1442 (NOTAL) THAT THIS IS TO US ADVANTAGE. OUR INTERESTS--SOMALI RESISTANCE TO SOVIET REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY FACILITIES, AND PEACE IN HORN--ARE BEST SERVED BY A REASONABLY SELF-CONFIDENT SIAD WHO RESPECTS US POWER BUT WHO DOES NOT FEEL THREATENED BY US.

5. BASIC LINES OF SOMALI POLICY REMAIN THE SAME AS BEFORE, HOWEVER, AND SIAD'S ACTIONS--OR LACK OF THEM--SINCE HIS RETURN SUGGEST TO US THAT WE WILL NOT RPT NOT EVEN SEE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED SOMALI BEHAVIOR IN ITS BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH US AS RESULT OF VISIT. THIS IS TOO BAD, BUT IT DOES NOT IN OUR VIEW NEGATE BASIC VALUE OF VISIT AS PER PARA. 4 ABOVE.
KIRK

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